

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8227

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. BILL FARRAND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF MESSAGE COULD BE PASSED TO KEN SKOUG THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL WERE HE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HUGH (GERRY) HAMILTON AT FSI AND HAVE A CHAT WITH HAMILTON ABOUT HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND ETA AT POST.
2. RE STATE 132971, PARA 3: WE ARE SUPPORTING VISA APPLICATIONS OF MR. AND MRS. M. SPAULDING TOON ON BASIS OF INFO SUPPLIED IN REF CABLE. YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH IT, BUT IF SOVIETS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING YOU MAY WISH TO REMIND THEM THAT EMBASSY MOSCOW ISSUED A VISA IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO GUEST OF DOBRYNIN A YEAR OR SO AGO.
3. NOW THAT WE HAVE SOVIET ACCEPTANCE FOR AN AIRPORT CEREMONY WHICH WILL INCLUDE PRESS AND PHOTOGRAPH (REF MOSCOW 8058) WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HIGHLY APPROPRIATE TO HAVE A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE WHICH THE AMBASSADOR MAY INCLUDE IN HIS REMARKS AT THE AIRPORT. THIS EVENT IS CERTAINLY THE MOST TANGIBLE, AND POSSIBLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT, IN BILATERAL COOPERATION SINCE APOLLO-SOYUZ DURING WHICH MESSAGES WERE SENT TO THE
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AIRCRAFT BY PRESIDENT FORD AND BREZHNEV. MHD IS A PARTICULARLY GOOD SUBJECT FOR A PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE, SINCE IT IS SOLIDLY IN LINE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION'S INITIATIVE ON ENERGY CONSERVATION AND TANGENTIALLY ON NON-PROLIFERATION AS WELL.

4. THE ADVANTAGES WE PERCEIVE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ARE:

A. IT WILL ALLAY SOME SOVIET APPREHENSION ON LACK OF HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN THE BILATERAL SCIENCE PROGRAM - AND THE ENERGY AGREEMENT IN PARTICULAR - BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. IN CONTRAST TO THE CRYOGENIC REFRIGERATOR AFFAIR, THE MAGNET REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT PROJECT WHICH THE U.S. CARRIED ON TIME AS PROMISED.

B. IT SHOULD GUARANTEE FULL SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS AND THEREBY ADD BALANCE TO THE WAY THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN REPORTING ON BILATERAL COOPERATION UP TO NOW.

C. IT SHOULD PROVIDE A USEFUL COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE IDEA CURRENT IN SOME U.S. CIRCLES AND THE MEDIA THAT THE BILATERALS ARE ALL TO THE SOVIET ADVANTAGE - THE ACADEMY HAS RECENTLY POINTED OUT TO US THE VALUE OF THE MAGNET IS ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE VALUE OF THE FACILITY TO WHICH THE U.S. WILL BE GAINING ACCESS THROUGH COOPERATION.

5. THE FOLLOWING ARE POINTS WHICH WE THINK ARE APPROPRIATE FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: MHD IS A RADICALLY NEW TECHNOLOGY WHICH PROMISES DIRECT AND SUBSTANTIAL BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE USSR AND INDEED THE WHOLE WORLD. THE US AND THE USSR HAVE BOTH RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO CONSERVE PRECIOUS FOSSIL FUEL RESOURCES AND YET CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ABUNDANT AND INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC POWER TO THE CITIZENS AND INDUSTRY OF BOTH COUNTRIES. SHOULD MHD FULFILL ITS PROMISE OF NEARLY DOUBLING THE EFFICIENCY WITH WHICH WE USE OUR FOSSIL FUELS FOR THE PURPOSE, PARTICULARLY COAL, A
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LARGE STEP FORWARD IN ACHIEVING THIS MUTUAL GOAL WILL BE MADE. THE DELIVERY OF THE MAGNET REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN OUR JOINT WORK ON THE MATTER AND IN OUR OVERALL COOPERATION EFFORT. IT DISPLAYS IN A MOST CONCRETE MANNER HOW THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES CAN BE BLENDED TO ACHIEVE RESULTS THAT NEITHER SIDE COULD ATTAIN AS QUICKLY OR AS ECONOMICALLY WORKING SEPARATELY. THE MHD PROJECT IS THE PRODUCT OF MANY SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN BOTH COUNTRIES ON A SUBJECT OF HIGH NATIONAL PRIORITY. IT IS AN ADMIRABLE DISPLAY OF MUTUAL TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE EXPANDED INTO OTHER AREAS OF OUR RELATIONS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP WHETHER THE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE HAS ANY CHANCE OF FLYING. IF IT DOES WE SHOULD INFORM THE SOVIETS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS THIS MAY AFFECT THEIR MEDIA COVERAGE AND HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION AT THE AIRPORT CEREMONY.

7. RUDENKO TOLD JEFF WHITE TODAY THE SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TWO WEEKS AFTER KNOOP ANSWERED THEIR QUESTIONS. THIS IS PROBABLY NOT UNREASONABLE ON THE SOVIETS' PART. WE BELIEVE THE VALUE OF A KNOOP VISIT IS TO PROVIDE U.S. DECISIONS SINCE THE CONFLICTING PARTIES IN WASHINGTON ARE UNABLE TO AGREE. IF WE READ THE SITUATION CORRECTLY, KNOOP'S VISIT COULD ACCOMPLISH THE LATTER OBJECTIVE.

8. DID YOU MANAGE TO CONTACT JIM?
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NNN

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